

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
~~permitting at least one customer to select previously recorded music selections, that were previously recorded by the at least one customer in a storage medium at a location of the customer, for unrestricted playback;~~  
receiving unrestricted playback selection information regarding a previously recorded music content item selection from ~~the at least one~~ a station, said station being associated with a customer location at a central controller system, said unrestricted playback selection information having been generated automatically upon determining that ~~when the~~ previously recorded music content item selection has been played at least a predetermined number of times at the station; ~~a customer location~~;  
granting permission for unrestricted playback of the previously recorded music content item; and  
billing the at least one customer ~~for the recorded music selections that are selected for unrestricted playback~~ based on the unrestricted playback selection information received.
2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising transmitting digital music content at data transmission rates faster than real time ~~to the at least one customer~~.
3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising providing associated ~~wherein said information includes including music selection~~ content availability, scheduling and content pricing data.
4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 3, further comprising providing an interactive program guide via a display device configured to enable selection of ~~for enabling customers to select~~ available digital music content items and ~~select~~ selection of functions for recording said music content items and functions for playing back recorded music content items.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 4, further comprising: receiving and decoding a ~~transmitted~~ music content item~~selection~~ and associated information and storing the decoded music content item ~~selections~~ and associated information in a digital data storage device ~~for temporary storage thereof~~.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 5, further comprising providing remote access to said decoded content availability, scheduling and content pricing data, said remote access including a direct Internet access link to a website of the content provider or via phone line connection.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 6, further comprising enabling ~~a customer to listen to the playing of a~~ decoded and stored music content item a limited number of selections one or more times on a no-charge basis ~~prior to permanently selecting said recorded music selection that the customer desires to maintain for unrestricted playback~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as s~~ claimed in Claim 7, further comprising generating a permanent enabling code for inclusion with said ~~permanent~~ recorded music content items selected for unrestricted playback ~~selections~~ to thereby enable unrestricted playback.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising transmitting digital music content to the at least one ~~customer, station~~ via a direct broadcast satellite (DBS) system, said transmitting comprising: scheduling and transmitting encoded music content to a direct broadcast satellite up-link facility via a central controller and transmitting program/pricing information to said up-link facility on a periodic basis.

10. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:  
a mechanism configured to ~~permit at least one customer to preselect and record transmitted~~ enable preselection of music selections content items for recording in a storage medium at a location of the customer;

a mechanism configured to receive ~~transmission of multiple at least one music selections content item~~ and configured to record the received at least one music selections content item in a storage medium in response to the preselection;

a mechanism configured to enable ~~the at least one customer to select~~ selection of a previously recorded music selections content item, that were which was previously recorded ~~by the at least one customer~~ in the storage medium, for unrestricted playback; and

a mechanism configured to communicate unrestricted playback selection information regarding a previously recorded music selection content item, that which was previously recorded ~~by the at least one customer~~ in the storage medium, ~~from the at least one customer to a central controller system, said unrestricted playback selection information having been generated automatically upon determining that when the previously recorded music selection content item~~ has been played at least a predetermined number of times at a customer location.

11. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said ~~transmission of multiple mechanism configured to receive at least one music selections content item~~ is configured to receive the at least one music content item via a direct broadcast satellite (DBS) system.

12. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said ~~transmission is transmission of mechanism configured to receive at least one music content item~~ is configured to receive the at least one digital music content item at a data transmission rates rate faster than real time.

13. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in Claim 11, ~~wherein said transmission comprises~~ further comprising:

a mechanism configured to receive music selection ~~content~~ availability, scheduling and content pricing data.

14. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said mechanism ~~permitting the customer to preselect~~ configured to enable preselection of desired ~~transmitted music selections content items~~ for recording comprises an interactive program guide mechanism ~~enabling customers to select~~ configured to enable selection of available digital music content items and ~~enabling the customer to select~~ to enable selection of functions for recording said music content items and functions for playing back recorded music content items.

15. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in Claim 13, further comprising a decoder device configured to receive and decode ~~transmitted music selections content items~~ and associated information and store decoded music ~~selections content items~~ and associated information in a digital data storage device ~~for temporary storage thereof~~.

16. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in Claim 13, further comprising a mechanism configured to enable remote access to said content availability, scheduling and content pricing data, said remote access is via a direct Internet access link to a website of a content provider or via phone line connection.

17. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said storage medium includes one selected from the group consisting of: read/write CD's, write only CD's, DVD RAM, magneto-optical disc, and digital tape.

18. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in Claim 15, further comprising a mechanism configured to enable ~~a customer to listen to playing a~~ decoded and stored music selections content item one or more times on a no-charge basis ~~prior to permanently selecting said recorded music selections that the customer desires to maintain for unrestricted playback~~.

19. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in Claim 18, further comprising a mechanism configured to receive a permanent enabling code that is ~~provided~~ received subsequent to the recording of a music selections content item, said permanent enabling code configured to cooperate ~~that operates in cooperation~~ with said ~~permanent~~-recorded music selections content item selected for unrestricted playback to thereby enable said unrestricted playback.

20. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in Claim 16, further comprising a mechanism configured to receive music content from a direct broadcast satellite up-link facility ~~via said central controller~~, and receive program/pricing information transmitted to said up-link facility on a periodic basis.

21. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said direct broadcast satellite ~~transmission system~~ operates in the KU Band of signals frequency communication, or other suitable frequency bands.

22. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said storage medium comprises a multiple disc platter for storing multiple disks each comprising recorded stored multimedia content.

23. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in Claim 11, further ~~comprises~~ comprising digital content/programming transmission links including one or more selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of: cable, optical fiber, DSL and Internet connections.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the ~~transmitted previously~~ recorded music content item is recorded on DVD RAM.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~system device~~ of Claim 10, wherein the ~~recording~~ mechanism configured to record comprises DVD RAM.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:  
a computer-based recording, storage and playback station, said station comprising:  
a first interface ~~enabling a customer to preselect~~ configured to enable preselection,  
~~from the transmitted~~ received availability information, available music ~~selections~~ content  
items for recording;  
a recording module ~~recording~~ configured to record ~~transmitted-received~~ music  
~~selections~~ content items in a storage medium;  
a second interface ~~enabling the customer to select~~ configured to enable selection of  
previously recorded music ~~selections, that~~ content items which were previously recorded by  
~~the at least one customer~~ in the storage medium, ~~to maintain~~ for unrestricted playback; and  
~~an output~~ a communications module ~~communicating~~ configured to communicate  
unrestricted playback selection information from the user station ~~to a central controller~~  
system, said unrestricted playback selection information having been generated automatically  
upon determining that a ~~when the~~ previously recorded music ~~selection~~ content item has been  
played at least a predetermined number of times at ~~a customer location~~ the station; and,  
~~a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill the at least one~~  
~~customer for the recorded music selection, that were previously recorded by the at least one~~  
~~customer household in the storage medium and that are selected for unrestricted playback,~~  
~~said billing based on the communicated unrestricted playback selection information.~~

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A ~~user~~ station for enabling unrestricted playback of a previously recorded music ~~selections, the system~~ selection comprising the components of:

a first interface ~~enabling a customer to select~~ configured to enable selection for unrestricted playback a previously recorded music ~~selections~~ content item that were which was previously recorded by the customer in a storage medium, to maintain the recorded music selections for unrestricted playback;

a second interface configured to communicate unrestricted playback selection information from the ~~user~~ station ~~to a central controller system~~ and for receiving enabling information for enabling unrestricted playback of ~~the a~~ previously recorded music ~~selections~~ content item, said unrestricted playback selection information being automatically generated and communicated upon determining when the previously recorded music ~~selection content~~ item has been played at least a predetermined number of times at the station ~~a customer location; and~~

~~a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill the customer associated with the user station for the recorded music selections that are selected for unrestricted playback based on said communicated unrestricted playback information.~~

32. (New) A method of distributing a music content item, the method comprising:  
providing information identifying a music content item available for recording;  
enabling preselection of the music content item for recording at a station;  
transmitting the music content item to the station;

receiving a request for unrestricted playback rights for the music content item, said request having been generated automatically upon determining that the music content item has been played at least a predetermined number of times at the station; and

transmitting, in response to the received request, a code configured to enable unrestricted playback of the music content item.

33. (New) A method as in claim 32, wherein transmitting the music content item comprises transmitting digital music content via a direct broadcast satellite system.